

Additional Services of Celebrant: The Celebrant of your wedding is willing to be available for most services, but often his time is restricted. It is wise to check with him well in advance for any occasion that you may request his presence, whether it is for offering a blessing or for discussion of plans.

Wedding Rehearsal: The rehearsal date and time is to be established between the celebrant and the couple. Those attending the rehearsal should be anyone in the wedding party, parents, and readers. Proper attire is requested. We have a very competent team that conducts the rehearsal. After the initial run-through of the procession and ceremony, there will be the opportunity to ask questions and practice the procession again so that everyone feels comfortable.

Punctuality: It is very important that all rehearsals and weddings start promptly at the scheduled time. Subsequent services are seriously affected by the late beginning of an earlier rehearsal or wedding.

Rice and Bird Seed: We respectfully ask that rice or bird seed not be used on the property at the time of your wedding. Due to insurance and custodial restrictions, we are unable to allow this custom.

***May you enjoy
the blessings of the Lord
in your married life.***

Soloist: Arrangements for a soloist are made by the couple. The organist will provide suggestions for a soloist if needed.

Lector: It is recommended that a member of the family or friend of the couple read the Scriptures at the ceremony. Usually the first and second readings are done by the readers chosen by the couple.

Altar Assistants: Altar Assistants are not needed but can be provided if requested.

Flowers: Usually couples order two arrangements for either side of the sanctuary. We ask that no flowers be placed directly on the Altar table. If our standing vases are to be used, be notified of the time when the liners are to be picked up. The florist also supplies the white runner (length of our aisle is approximately 75 feet).

Pictures: We have no objection to pictures being taken, but ask that photographers respect the dignity of the ceremony. During the wedding, they should not be in the Sanctuary at any time (the carpeted area of the church). Following the ceremony, the group may return for posed pictures. We ask that the photographer be informed of our policy. Discussing plans with the celebrant is advisable.

Offerings:

- The offering for use of the church or Seton Chapel for a wedding is \$100.00 for registered parishioners and \$150 for non-registered couples. Payment is required when you schedule your wedding date. The offering does not go to the priest but to the parish.
- If a wedding or wedding rehearsal occurs outside the normally scheduled time, it may be necessary to engage the services of a sacristan. In this event, the fees would be \$30 for a wedding, and \$20 for a rehearsal.
- Should a couple wish to give an offering to the priest or deacon, the amount is up to your discretion and should be given to him at the time of the ceremony.
- Some fees are contractual – the fee for services by the organist, contemporary music group, or soloist is usually determined when preparations are made with them. In addition, an offering would be proper for altar assistants if their presence is requested.

Wedding Information Booklet

St. Isaac Jogues Church

9215 Old Harford Road
Baltimore, MD 21234
410-661-4888

www.sij.org

CONGRATULATIONS

We are delighted that you are planning to get married and that St. Isaac's Parish is part of your plans.

This booklet is presented to you in order to help you plan your wedding celebration. Wedding details and arrangements are certainly necessary and important, but we hope that you never lose sight of the fact that Marriage is primarily a Sacrament – a sacred sign of your love for each other in Christ. Christ abundantly blesses your love, and in this sacrament He enriches and strengthens you so that you may grow in mutual and lasting fidelity.

Please accept our sincere best wishes and prayers for a happy married life together.

The Pastoral Staff of St. Isaac Jogues Parish

Realizing that every bride and groom joyfully anticipates a happy wedding ceremony as well as a happy wedded life, the following items are listed to help in preparation for marriage at St. Isaac Jogues Church.

Marriage License: For a marriage to take place in Baltimore County, the license must be obtained at the new County Court Building in Towson. The office is open from **8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** Monday through Friday, but is closed for State holidays. After application is made, there is a 48-hour waiting period before the license is issued. In Maryland there are no stipulations regarding blood tests, etc. Proof of age may be required.

Baptismal Certificates: Members of the Catholic faith are required to have a Baptismal certificate. Church law states that the copy must be no more than six months old at the time of the marriage ceremony. They may be obtained by phoning, writing, or going in person to the parish where the baptism took place.

Instructions: Couples entering marriage must attend a qualified program of marriage instruction. Generally, this is either at a diocesan Marriage Preparation Conference, Engaged Encounter Program, or our parish-based Sponsor Couple Program. Due to a limit on the number accepted at individual programs, the couple is advised to make reservations several months in advance for the particular program they plan to attend. Schedules may be obtained when you meet with your celebrant or from the parish office.

Church Music: Both traditional and contemporary music are appropriate for liturgical services. Please contact the parish office as early as possible to make arrangements for the services of one of our parish organists. Select the music with the organist at least one month prior to the ceremony. Our organists are under contract for all weddings at St. Isaac Jogues Church. Should you wish to engage another organist, please call the office. Exceptions are possible under certain circumstances. Our own contemporary music group generally is not available for weddings, and we suggest the couple make their own arrangements if that style is their preference. Liturgical standards are to be followed in choice of music. This is best expressed with the phrase—"Sacred music for the church; and secular music for the reception." It is advisable to talk over the choice of music with the celebrant if in doubt.